

Touch a Truck,
p.16



Greenbelt Little
League, p.15

County High School Students Receive Social Justice Awards

by Lois Rosado



PHOTO BY LOIS ROSADO

From left, Livia Luu, Nicole Igbozulike, Zoe Smithen, Michelle Washington, Isaiah Ali, Hannah Louis and Mrs. Chappelle attend the Student Social Justice Awards Ceremony.

Uplifting and hopeful for the future. These words reflect the annual Student Social Justice Awards Ceremony of the Prince George's Lynching Memorial Project, hosted by the Greenbelt Black History and Culture Committee.

For the past five years the program has attracted youth from Prince George's County high schools and their parents, reflect-

ing the rich cultural mix of this county and this country.

There are three categories to the contest: Essay, Creative Writing (Spoken Word) and Visual Arts. Given that there were 82 entries, the nine student winners presented exceptional works.

Essay

First place: Livia Luu, Eleanor Roosevelt High School. The title of her essay was Spinning Stereo-

type on Its Head: Racial Injustice of Figure Skating. Luu gave an informative presentation about the difficulties of African Americans and other non-white athletes to become world-class figure skaters. The bronze win of Debi Thomas at the 1988 Olympics in Calgary, Alberta, showed that opportunity, ability and determination have no color.

See **AWARDS**, page 11

Recreation Center Expansion Has Been Waiting 20 Years

by Laura Charleston

Plans for Springhill Lake Recreation Center's (SLRC) expansion began over 20 years ago. Now, recent federal funding may make it a more imminent reality.

Greenbelt received over \$1.8 million in federal funding, which included \$250,000 for SLRC expansion and approximately \$1.5 million for the Youth Center roof replacement (see the March 11 issue). "These facilities answer the critical need to provide youth gathering places, meet quality child-care needs and support after-school and summer programs," said City Manager Josué Salmerón.

Long-awaited Expansion

The \$250,000 in federal money will support the design and engineering work for the proposed addition to SLRC. Plans for the addition and renovation date back to at least 2002, when then-City Manager Michael McLaughlin worked with Laurel Design Alliance on plans for its redesign and expansion.

Priorities

The federal funding for SLRC and Youth Center renovations awarded to Greenbelt comes at



PHOTO BY NICK HALL NH

Josué Salmerón stands alongside Maryland politicians at Springhill Lake Recreation Center in March as they celebrate federal funding for Greenbelt recreation projects.

a time of great need, but further funding is needed to remedy other dire challenges, say area residents in Franklin Park, where SLRC is located.

While the investment is a major step forward for city facilities, some community members and volunteers voiced concerns about how funds are divided across the city - SLRC is located in

the Franklin Park neighborhood and the Youth Center in the city center - and whether they address the most immediate needs. The city received approximately 30 percent of its requested amount for SLRC and all of the requested amount for the Youth Center. Several residents point to ongoing needs and longstanding maintenance issues at SLRC, despite the city's record of delivering improvements and fixes when residents made requests.

For Kevin Lockhart, also known as Coach K., a longtime volunteer at SLRC, the issue is not whether Greenbelt invests in

See **REC CENTER**, page 6

What Goes On

Monday, May 11

7:30 p.m., City Council Meeting: Second Public Hearing, FY2027 Proposed Budget, Municipal Building

Wednesday, May 13

7 p.m., Council Budget Work-session: Recognition Groups (Group 2), Municipal Building

See the city ad on page 5 or the meetings calendar at greenbeltnmd.gov for more information.

Officers Recognized for Closing Major Cases, Talk Modern Policing

by Laura Charleston



PHOTO COURTESY GREENBELT POLICE

From left: Detective Roberson, Detective Rodas-Flores, Master Police Officer Simms and Detective Alvarez receive a Unit Citation.

The Greenbelt Police Department's Criminal Investigative Unit (CIU) was recognized with a Unit Citation for its work investigating violent crime between July 2025 and January 2026, including three homicides and multiple shootings. Detectives Carl Roberson, Oscar Rodas-Flores, Aidan Simms and Eric Alvarez received the citations

on Monday, April 20. Officials say the recognition reflects months of complex investigations that led to arrests, recovered firearms and a measurable impact on public safety. Following the ceremony, Chief of Police Richard Bowers, Master Police Officer Carl Roberson and

See **POLICE**, page 12

Community Organizations Face Coming Financial Challenges

by Matthew Arbach

Representatives of Greenbelt CARES, Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL), Meals on Wheels of College Park and the Greenbelt Cinema met with the Greenbelt City Council for a budget work-session on Monday, April 20 to provide an update of their status and efforts, as well as the major challenges they currently are facing.

CARES Update

For CARES, Director Elizabeth Park, with Assistant Director and Resource Advocate for GAIL Christal Batey, began the meeting. The discussion mainly focused on the potential ending of many programs due to the loss of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding on July 1.

See **BUDGET**, page 9



PHOTO BY NICK HALL NH

A groundhog living underneath some steps on Ridge Road has given birth to four babies. Remember to keep your distance!

Letters to the Editor

Let's Keep Current Office of DEI

As our city reviews the 2027 budget, we find ourselves at a pivotal moment. The 2027 Budget Book reveals remarkable achievements by the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI), successes which moved Greenbelt toward greater inclusion, employee engagement and community healing.

In just two years, this office has achieved what many jurisdictions struggle to do: boosted employee engagement through the JEDI Action Team, modernized professional development with flexible training platforms and led a voter engagement strategy leading to a 20 percent increase in local election participation. These milestones demonstrate that the office is a vital driver of civic health.

At the same time, it is important for this inclusion work to have the full support of the Greenbelt City Council and the city administration. Both the council and city administration need to be held accountable for inclusion and equity work that has yet to be completed for the public to understand the purpose for the restructuring plan.

Currently, there is a proposal to move these functions under Human Resources (HR). While this may seem like an administrative shift, it could inadvertently stall the very progress we celebrate. As we look to the future, we must consider structural limitations identified by organizational experts:

- Avoiding the Resource Trap: Research by Sands & Ferraro (2025) warns that traditional HR frameworks often view employees as “resources” or “FTEs” (Full-Time Equivalents). An independent DEI office, however, is designed to preserve the humanity and unique individuality required for authentic inclusion.

- Ensuring Cross-Departmental Reach: Effective equity work requires buy-in from every corner of city government. Experts note that housing DEI within HR can signal to other departments that the work is “not theirs,” leading to a loss of shared responsibility across the city (Sands & Ferraro, 2025).

- Transformational vs. Transactional: When DEI is an HR function, it is often limited to recruitment metrics. By maintaining an independent structure, Greenbelt ensures the work remains transformational, addressing systemic inequities and improving service delivery for all residents.

- Navigating Cultural Complexity: Studies indicate that standard HR management methods are often structurally unable to address the complex cultural variations of a diverse workforce (Cletus et al., 2018). Our current independent model is far better equipped to handle these nuances.

An independent office serves as a necessary bridge of trust. It provides a dedicated space where employees feel safe to share concerns and ensures the officer has the authority to mitigate challenges effectively. Moving away from

See **LETTERS**, page 10



Correction

The Canada goose goslings pictured in last week's paper were actually swimming on the stormwater management pond on Greenbelt Road near the Honda dealership and Royal Farms. Our apologies to photographer Mary Murchison-Edwards for the mislocation.



Drop Us a Line!

Electronically, that is.
editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com

Greenbelt Cinema
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbeltcinema.org

Members always \$7.00!
Member kids are always FREE!
After 5 PM: adults \$10, kids \$7,
senior/student/military \$9

Before 5 PM:
general admission \$8, kids \$6

OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES:
MAY 8th - 14th

The Sheep Detectives (PG)
(CC) (DVS) (2026) (110 mins)

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sat. 5:15 PM, 7:50 PM
Sun. 2:30 PM (OC), 7:45 PM
Wed. 7:30 PM
Thurs. 3:00 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 5:15 PM, 7:50 PM
Mon. 2:15 PM, 5:15 PM
Tue. 7:30 PM

Michael (PG-13)
(CC) (DVS) (2026) (127 mins)

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 5:00 PM, 8:00 PM
Mon. 2:00 PM (OC), 5:00 PM
Tue. 7:15 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Sat. 5:00 PM, 8:00 PM
Sun. 4:50 PM, 8:00 PM
Wed. 7:15 PM
Thurs. 5:35 PM

Georgia O'Keeffe:
The Brightness of Light
(NR) (2024) (116 mins)

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sun. 5:00 PM
Mon. 11:00 AM



Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All letters to the editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 5 p.m. Co-op dropbox: Classified ads with payment only.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Tuesday, 2 - 4 p.m.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the Municipal Building.

Story & Photograph Submissions

We welcome your stories and photographs about all things Greenbelt. While publication is not guaranteed, your submissions help us cover more of what goes on. Stories will be copyedited. Remember to include captions and identify people in photographs. See the information box on this page for publication deadlines and how to submit materials.

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

The Sheep Detectives

In this witty, new breed of mystery, George (Hugh Jackman) is a shepherd who reads detective novels to his beloved sheep every night, assuming they can't possibly understand. But when a mysterious incident disrupts life on the farm, the sheep realize they must become the detectives. As they follow the clues and investigate human suspects, they prove that even sheep can be brilliant crime-solvers.

Michael

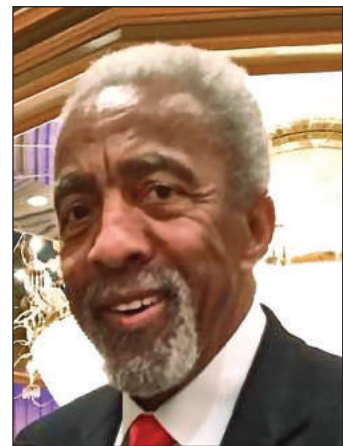
This biopic is the cinematic portrayal of the life and legacy of influential artist Michael Jackson. The film tells the story of Jackson's life beyond the music, tracing his journey from the discovery of his extraordinary talent as the lead of the Jackson Five, to the visionary artist whose creative ambition fueled a relentless pursuit to become the biggest entertainer in the world. Highlighting both his life off-stage and some of the most iconic performances from his early solo career, the film gives audiences a front row seat to Michael Jackson as never before. This is where his story begins.

Georgia O'Keeffe

From director Paul Wagner, this documentary explores the life and art of the most important woman artist of the 20th century. Georgia O'Keeffe became famous for her paintings of flowers and bones and emerged as an iconic role model for women. Claire Danes voices O'Keeffe's words and Hugh Dancy narrates the film. "I can't think of another project, at least not in my tenure" where the museum has cooperated so fully with a filmmaker, said Cody Hartley, director of the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum in Santa Fe, N.M. "It's beautifully produced and filmed. They secured the participation of nearly every major scholar in the last 40 years. All these voices are featured. They got an interview with her at Ghost Ranch that I had never seen before. For me, it was very powerful," he said.

Obituaries

Donald Martin



Donald Martin

Donald Martin died peacefully on March 26, 2026, at his home in Greenbelt, leaving behind a life marked by service, dedication and love. Don was born on August 13, 1946, in New Camp, located in Pike County, Ky.

During his early years, Don built a foundation of faith that guided him into the man he became. After graduating from Belfry High School in 1966, he followed his calling to serve his country. Don joined the United States Air Force on August 26, 1966. As a proud Vietnam-era veteran, he served honorably and bravely before returning home in 1970. After completing his military service, he moved to Washington, D.C., and was employed by the U.S. Department of Justice for two years.

In 1973, Don began a new career with then Alleghany Airlines, which transitioned into U.S. Airways, which later merged with American Airlines. He served in several capacities for 28 years, starting as a gate agent and later promoted into management. After his retirement from the airline, Don continued with his love of transportation at the Maryland State Highway Administration for 15 years. In 2016, he retired from SHA as a safety officer.

Don dedicated many years of service to his community as well. He joined the Mason Brotherhood in 1981 through Eureka Lodge, No. 5 in Washington, D.C. In addition, he served as a deacon and trustee at Trinity Baptist Church for many years. He also served as a volunteer firefighter at the Chillum-Adelphi Co. 34. His community service also included being a CPR and first-aid instructor for the American Heart Association and the American Red Cross, respectively.

After moving to Greenbelt in 2005, Don's dedication to service continued with compassion and generosity of his time. He served on the Board of Appeals with the City of Greenbelt for 19 years, and with the Greenspring II HOA for four years. Don enjoyed working with the Greenbelt Boys & Girls Club as "Doc Martin." Just recently, as a veteran, he joined the American Legion Post 136 in Greenbelt. As a passionate sports enthusiast, Don was a devoted Washington Commanders super fan who tried his very best not to miss a game.

Don was a devoted husband to his wife Marjorie for 48 years, father to his beloved daughter Veronica and grandfather to his greatest joy, Eric. He spoke often of his family with pride, support and encouragement.

Don is survived by his wife, Marjorie Martin; daughter, Veronica Martin Alston (Charles);

grandson, Eric Martin; brother, Joseph Martin; an aunt, Clara Clark; sisters-in-law, Earlene McLean (Greg), Stephanie Creech (Dennis) and Renatta Blevins (James); brother-in-law, Frank Kincaid; nieces, Margie Alston, Danielle Ross and Mahagony Martin Hurley; nephew, Brandon Germain; cousin, Thomas Williams; and numerous extended family and friends.

Don was preceded in death by his parents, Jack and Mamie Martin; brothers, Jack Martin Jr. and Ronald Martin (his twin); and sisters, Geneva Martin and Anne Mae Martin.

Eileen Connolly

Eileen Louise Connolly, 77, formerly of 18 Court Ridge Road, died in Charlotte, N.C., April 29, 2026, of complications following a serious illness.

Eileen was born in Takoma Park and grew up in Silver Spring the older of two children. She graduated from the University of Maryland in 1970 with a degree in theater, and went on to work for the U.S. State Department until her retirement. Eileen's longest assignment was planning itineraries for foreign visitors and escorting them around the nation's capital.

Moving into GHI as a 20-something first-time homeowner was a major step for Eileen, and the start of a delightful new phase of her life. She tried her hand at new skills, like hanging wallpaper and growing vegetables in whiskey barrels, and enjoyed getting to know her neighbors and

discovering the many interesting facets in the community.

She was a regular patron of the local shops, such as Generous Joe's, the movie theater and, of course, the Co-op Supermarket. The New Deal Café was a special favorite. She watched the Fourth of July fireworks from a lawn chair in her yard, and never missed a Labor Day Parade. A member of St. Hugh's Catholic Church, Eileen served on the offering counting team and helped with the annual church bazaar. She served regularly at a local food bank, delivering food on her commute to work.

A fall and subsequent loss of mobility prompted Eileen to relocate to Charlotte, N.C., in 2021 to be near family. There she was part of an assisted living community, where she was a great favorite for her cheerful outlook, ready humor and interest in others' lives.

Eileen is survived by her brother Michael Connolly (Jane), her nieces Anne Malament (David) and Meg Kittrell (Will), and her nephew Michael Connolly (Elisabeth) and 10 great-nieces and great-nephews.

A funeral was held May 4 at James Funeral Home in Huntersville, N.C. Eileen will be buried privately at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Silver Spring beside her parents.



Obituaries

The News Review publishes obituaries of Greenbelt residents, past or present.

You write it or we will if you prefer. We try to include information about participation in various activities and organizations, where the person lived and something about the family. A photograph and service information should be included. There is no charge.

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt
Open hearts, Open Minds, Open doors
Find us on [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)
301-474-5410
Pastor Evelyn Romero

Worship Service, Sundays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Let's party! Celebrations from the Bible.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

GREENBELT COMMUNITY CHURCH
One Hillside Road

Join Us Sunday 10:15 AM for Worship

www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org

We Are an Open and Affirming Church

Rev. Aubra Love, Senior Pastor

ST. HUGH OF GRENABLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am*, Sat 9am*
- Sunday Mass:
 - Sat vigil 5pm*
 - Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
- Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm.

Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

CELEBRATE WITH US
135 Crescent Rd.
www.sthughofgrenoble.org

*Live streamed on Facebook and available on our YouTube page later.



Condolences to the family and friends of Donald Martin who died on March 26 at his home in Greenbelt.

Friends and former neighbors of Eileen Connolly, who lived on Ridge Road for nearly 30 years, will be sorry to hear of her death in Charlotte, N.C., where she moved in 2021 to be near her family.

We wish a very happy birthday to John Henry Jones of Ridge Road, who turned 98 on May 6!

Congratulations to detectives Carl Roberson, Oscar Rodas-Flores, Aidan Simms and Eric Alvarez, members of the Greenbelt Police Department's Criminal Investigative Unit, on being recognized with a Unit Citation for

their exemplary work.

Congratulations also to the winners of the annual Student Social Justice Awards Ceremony of the Prince George's Lynching Memorial Project, including first place winner Livia Luu, from Eleanor Roosevelt High School.

We are proud of state champions Austin Hayes and Leo Foreman of the Eleanor Roosevelt High School wrestling team.

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"The gift of God to this enlightened age is the knowledge of the oneness of mankind and of the fundamental oneness of religion." – 'Abdu'l-Bahá

Greenbelt Bahá'í Community
www.greenbeltbahais.org

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT

Mass Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
Community Center Room 114
15 Crescent Rd
cathcomgreenbelt.org
ALL ARE WELCOME!

A Roman Catholic Intentional Eucharistic Community

OR - Join us on ZOOM!
For ZOOM link: [CCG1985+owner@groups.io](https://www.zoom.us/j/98519851985)

St. John's Episcopal Church
11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704
301-937-4292 www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org

Welcomes you each Sunday for Worship & Sunday School at 10:00 AM

Mishkan Torah Congregation
10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Yael Fischman

A welcoming, inclusive, and friendly synagogue offers something for everyone: young, old, single, married, and both Jewish and interfaith families.

Services at 8:00pm Friday and 9:45am Saturday in person and on Zoom

For more information, visit MishkanTorah.org or call 301-474-4223
A Dual-Affiliated Reconstructionist and Conservative congregation
10 Ridge Rd, Greenbelt, MD 20770

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

Postal address: P.O. Box 676, Laurel, MD 20725
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

May 10, 2026, at 3 p.m.
A Mother's Influence
Men's Group with Worship Associate Jim Flaherty

The Paint Branch Men's Group will reflect on the lives of mothers, their own and others, examining how a mother's influence helps shape children into the adults they will become.

Streaming on PBUUC's Facebook page, on Zoom, and in person. Worship service held at University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD



City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

FY2027 Budget Work Sessions at a Glance

OVERVIEW FROM APRIL 29 & MAY 4 BUDGET WORK SESSION

Budget Work Session - Public Safety

The April 29 Budget Work Session focused on reviewing the FY2027 budget for public safety services, with detailed discussions about the Police Department and Volunteer Fire Station 35.

Key discussions

- Volunteer Fire Station 35 reported 20 active members contributing nearly 2,000 service hours, alongside ongoing equipment and funding needs
- Police Department reached full staffing (72 personnel) following successful recruitment efforts
- Stop sign camera program is generating additional revenue for the City

Council members also raised concerns about the proposed Charter amendment regarding Collective Bargaining, particularly regarding definitions of confidential employees and management positions.

Budget Work Session - Green Ridge House

The May 4 Budget Work Session focused on the FY2027 budget review for Green Ridge House, a federally subsidized Section 8 senior housing facility. City Manager Josue Salmerón, Assistant City Manager Tim George, and Property Manager Kim Potts provided updates on recent accomplishments including HVAC riser replacement, lobby renovations, and Wi-Fi installation.

Key discussions

- Upcoming projects for fiscal year 2027, including phase two of HVAC work
- Pergola construction
- Canopy replacements

Council members asked questions about funding, resident services, waiting lists, and operational matters. The meeting also included a brief review of the upcoming council meeting agenda for May 11, including discussions about the DEI position and potential presentations from the State's Attorney's office. The session concluded with a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters and pending litigation.

For more information visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/budget.

MEETINGS FOR MAY 11 - 15

Wednesday, May 13 at 7 pm, **BUDGET WORK SESSION - RECOGNITION GROUPS (GROUP 2) - Council Chambers**

Thursday, May 14 at 7 pm, **COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD - Council Chambers, On the Agenda: TBD**

In advance, the hearing impaired are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.

GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING

Monday, May 11 at 7:30 pm

ORGANIZATION

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
- Reading of the Greenbelt Community Pledge
- Petitions and Requests
- Consent Agenda
- Committee Reports
- Meetings
 - Board of Elections Report #2026-02 (Council Ranked-Choice Voting and Other Matters Request for 2027 Municipal Elections)
 - Arts Advisory Board Report #26-3 - (Recognition Group Status)
- Approval of Agenda and Additions

COMMUNICATIONS

- Presentations
 - State's Attorney Tara Jackson
 - Memorial Day Poppy Presentation
 - Public Hearing — FY 2027 Proposed Budget
 - Jewish American Heritage Month
 - Fitness Awareness Month Proclamation
 - Public Hearing — FY 2027 Proposed Budget
- Minutes
- Administrative Reports

LEGISLATION

- A Resolution Creating a Grant Matching Fund for the Purpose of Providing Funding for City Grants
 - 2nd Reading, Adoption
- A Charter Amendment Resolution of the Council of the City of Greenbelt to Amend §3-22 "Powers" of the City Charter to Authorize the City of Greenbelt to Engage in Collective Bargaining for Certain Eligible Non-Exempt, and Non-Managerial City Employees as Provided in Article VIII of Chapter 13 of the City Code.
 - 1st Reading

OTHER BUSINESS

- Discussion of the Council Planning Framework
- Central Park Planter Project
- DEI Position Proposals
- Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Zoning Townhouses Issue
- Council Reports
- Council Activities

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov.

This agenda is subject to change. For the most up-to-date agenda, visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipalTV or call (301) 474-8000.

FY2027 Budget Work Session Schedule

The Greenbelt City Council will hold a series of work sessions throughout April and May to review and discuss the FY2027 Proposed Budget with City staff. Community members are encouraged to tune in or attend to learn more about upcoming plans and priorities for our city.

Join us in person at 25 Crescent Road, or virtually via YouTube, the Greenbelt website at www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipalTV livestream, Zoom, or on Verizon and Comcast cable channels.

View the full schedule of upcoming work session dates below:

- (May 6) Budget Work Session - Recognition Groups (Group 1)
- (May 11) 2nd Public Hearing
- (May 13) Budget Work Session - Recognition Groups (Group 2)
- (May 18) Budget Work Session - Final Budget Review
- (May 26) Budget Adoption

OFFICIAL NOTICE - PUBLIC HEARING

The Greenbelt City Council has scheduled a public hearing to be held during the Regular Meeting of Council **Monday, May 11, 2026 at 7:30 pm**

CONCERNING THE PROPOSED BUDGETS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 FOR THE GENERAL FUND AND EACH OF THE OTHER FUNDS OF THE CITY.

GENERAL FUND BUDGET FY 2026-2027

REVENUES

Taxes	\$32,939,829
Licenses & Permits	1,267,500
Intergovernmental	1,468,800
Charges for Services	2,428,900
Fines & Forfeitures	1,214,520
Interest	300,000
Miscellaneous Revenues	296,900
Interfund Transfers	1,831,700
TOTAL REVENUES	\$41,748,149

EXPENDITURES

General Government	\$5,484,494
Planning and Community Development	1,429,251
Public Safety	14,363,507
Public Works	5,527,242
Greenbelt CARES	1,726,046
Recreation and Parks	8,955,738
Miscellaneous	373,640
Non-Departmental	1,440,400
Fund Transfers	2,440,928
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$41,741,246

PROPOSED EXPENDITURE BUDGETS FOR OTHER FUNDS

Cemetery Fund	\$0
Debt Service Fund	801,100
Replacement Fund	607,999
Special Projects Fund	575,300
Enterprise Fund – Green Ridge House	1,839,200
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS	\$3,823,599

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUNDS

Capital Projects Fund	\$5,331,800
Building Capital Reserve Fund	\$3,178,445
Greenbelt West Infrastructure Fund	4,275,000
Community Development Block Grant Fund	231,022
TOTAL CAPITAL FUNDS	\$13,016,267

The Public Hearing will be held in person at the Municipal Building and virtual via Zoom. Public attendance and participation are encouraged. All citizens of Greenbelt will have a reasonable opportunity to provide written and oral comments and to ask questions concerning the entire proposed budget. If special accommodations are required to make this meeting accessible to any disabled person, please call 301-474-8000 or e-mail the City Clerk at banderson@greenbeltmd.gov no later than 10 a.m. on the meeting day. Copies of the proposed budget may be examined at the City Offices, 25 Crescent Rd., during normal operating hours. The proposed budget is also posted on the City Web site at <http://www.greenbeltmd.gov>. For more information, please call 301-474-8000.

- Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

UPCOMING FREE PROGRAMS

The City of Greenbelt is happy to provide the following programs **FREE** of charge. For more information, visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.

- BIKE TO WORK DAY** Friday, May 15, 6:30 - 8:30 am, *Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center parking lot*
- BILINGUAL PRE-K STORY HOUR** Friday, May 8, 10:30 - 11:30 am, *Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Lane*
- CITY OF GREENBELT JOB FAIR** Saturday, May 17 at 10 am *Beltway Plaza, 6000 Greenbelt Road*
- MEMORY CAFE** May 20 at 1: 30 pm - *Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East.*
- STRONGER EVERY YEAR - A HEALTHY AGING AND PREVENTION FAIR** Thursday, May 28, 1-4 pm. Featuring Reflexology, Memory Screenings, Journaling, and more.

A majority (or quorum) of Greenbelt City Council members may attend community organization meetings, but no official Council action will be taken at these meetings. Please note that meeting locations may change after being published. For information on how to join these meetings, contact the respective organization directly.

GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

Be sure to check out the City calendar for all up to date events at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.



* VOLUNTEER * VACANCIES * APPLY FOR A COMMITTEE OR BOARD TODAY!

Volunteering for City of Greenbelt Committees & Boards is an excellent opportunity to engage with your community and make a difference. Choose from a number of committees & boards such as the Advisory Committee on Education, Advisory Committee on Trees, Arts Advisory Board, Board of Appeals, Community Relations Advisory Board, Ethics Commission, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, Park and Recreation Advisory Board, or Youth Advisory Committee and make a difference in Greenbelt!

Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today!

Call (301) 474-8000.

ARTS HAPPENINGS

Visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/arts for more information and many other opportunities!

Sign up for ARTFANS, a weekly e-newsletter, at www.greenbeltmd.gov/list.aspx

May Artful Afternoon 5/10; 1:30-2:30pm (Springhill Lake Recreation Center) Paint and weave paper into a colorful wall hanging with artist Barbara Joann Combs. This event includes a mixer hosted by the Greenbelt Arts Advisory Board and a performance by Eleanor Roosevelt High School dance students. Sign up here: sugeni.us/enFb.

Without A Pattern: A Weekend of Sewing Dangerously 5/16-17; 9:30am-5:30pm (Greenbelt Community Center) Join instructor Danielle Probst for a weekend sewing adventure! The goal - one completed-historically accurate women's day dress. Registration required: see page 21 of the spring activity guide for details - www.greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide.

MORE ARTS HAPPENING SOON

- Free Artist Talk with Tinam Valk** 5/15; 6-7pm (Greenbelt Community Center) RSVP at sugeni.us/e8So.

Registration required for the following activities, see www.greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide for details.

- Pet Portrait Painting** 5/17-5/24; 1-3pm (Greenbelt Community Center) page 25.
- Fused Glass Wall Hanging** 5/25; 11am-1pm (Greenbelt Community Center) page 24.

TEEN TALK: IT'S NOT EASY BEING A TEEN! Date TBD

If you are 13 to 17 years old and live in Greenbelt, we want to hear from you and learn what issues our teens are dealing with!

We're providing a \$50 gift card and pizza and drinks for actively participating in a 2 hour in-person session that includes using their phone to provide input and answer questions.

Use the QR code below to register:



For more information, contact ACAPS Chair Peggy Higgins at (240) 375-0388 or higgins20770@aol.com

Brought to you by the City of Greenbelt Advisory Committee Advancing Public Safety

REC CENTER continued from page 1

its facilities but how those investments are prioritized.

“I am a volunteer, facilitator, advocate, mentor. I do a lot of things here,” Lockhart said.

He emphasized that the city has historically responded when the community raises concerns. “When we need something, they’ve given it to us,” he said. “They did a fantastic job of doing and giving us what we needed.” He cited past improvements, including upgrades to the playground and gym, as evidence that the city follows through. “We got a huge, nice playground back there and a nice outdoor basketball court. I mean, we needed it and they gave it to us,” he said. Though Greenbelt has a track record of responding to community needs, residents want more proactive and balanced investment, especially when large-scale funding becomes available.

Allocation of Funds

Lockhart questioned the allocation of the latest federal funding, arguing that more immediate facility issues remain unresolved. The award specifies the amount to each project but Lockhart would have liked to see it split evenly. “We need our heating system and our air conditioning system fixed,” he said of SLRC. Recurring mechanical failures affect daily operations, particularly in extreme weather. While repairs are routinely made, the cycle continues without a long-term solution, says Lockhart.

“It breaks down every two weeks, every three weeks, every month or whatever,” Lockhart said. “How many times are we gonna let something break and fix it and break and fix it and break and fix it?”

Carolyn Lambright-Davis, a 14-year Greenbelt resident, community volunteer and Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society (CHEARS) board member, echoed both appreciation for the funding and concern about how it is distributed.

Lambright-Davis framed the issue as one of fairness across different parts of the city. While acknowledging that improvements have been made and city staff respond to issues, she said the facility still requires significant upgrades.

“Public Works is phenomenal but it [SLRC] needs to be renovated for our children,” she said.

Like Lockhart, she pointed to ongoing maintenance problems, including heating, structural wear and limited space for programming.

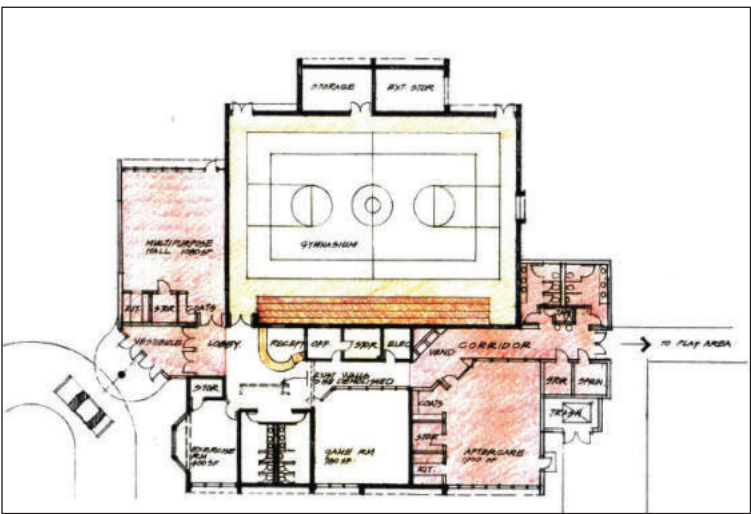
Funding the Expansion

The city is looking to other sources to fully fund the project. That includes working with the county and state to reallocate \$1.5 million in Program Open Space (POS) funding that had previously been earmarked for the Youth Center roof project. “The city’s intent is to use that funding toward construction of the SLRC project, subject to the required county and state approval,” Salmerón told the News Review.

“Potential funding sources for the project include federal funding, POS funding, county and state support, potential support from Park and Planning, and local city funds,” said Salmerón.

Critical Resource

Lockhart stressed that despite challenges, programming at SLRC remains active and impactful. “For a center that has very little, we



A renovation plan for Springhill Lake Recreation Center from 2002. The areas shaded red represent additions.

give a lot,” he said.

It operates as a hub for youth services, education and community support for Franklin Park. Lockhart described SLRC as a critical resource for local families. “This is a very busy center,” he said. “The gym is active seven days a week.”

Programs include tutoring, athletics and after-school care, often serving children who rely on the center as a safe and supportive environment. At the press conference to celebrate the funding, Brian Butler, SLRC recreation coordinator, said the center is a safe place where children can go after school and be fed, physically and mentally. “It says something when a parent can come home and relax and know that their child is at a community center which is a safe zone. We have homework time. We do provide lunches, and they’re here with counselors who care. We have people like the Daves and Coach K who also bring into the community what is missing, I believe, in a lot of places, and that’s the elders’ wisdom,” said Butler.

“They know this is a safe haven for them,” Lockhart said. Lambright-Davis pointed to volunteer-driven initiatives, such as mentoring and environmental education programs, as examples of how the community continues to invest in its youth regardless of facility limitations.

“We all have to do our part,” she said.

SLRC Timeline

The city council has not yet made a final decision on the additions or final site design for SLRC, nor does the city have all the funding it would need to complete the project. Salmerón told the News Review they’ve mostly relied on the prior planning work from 2003, when PRAB/APB reviewed the proposed addition and renovation concept for the facility. However, Salmerón had some reservations about the space design that is now more than two decades old, questioning whether it fully meets today’s programming needs for SLRC and the surrounding community. “The demand for space at Springhill Lake far exceeds the facility’s current capacity,” said Salmerón, who suggested the community may benefit more from one larger, flexible program space than from adding a smaller room and expanding the current game room, as the original plans propose. “Much more work is needed to revisit, evaluate and vet the prior design before final decisions are made,” Salmerón said.

The city does not have a firm timeline for beginning redevelopment or construction of the

SLRC addition, said Salmerón, as “the city still needs to determine the final design, evaluate current community and programming needs, and develop a more precise construction cost estimate.” However, he noted, “the acceptance of the federal and POS funds puts pressure on us to move forward with the project, as both sources have timeline requirements.”

Youth Center Timeline

On the other hand, the city does now have the funding it needs to replace the Youth Center roof and expects that project to begin in September. However, Salmerón noted that delays are possible and the schedule will depend on the county permitting and review process.

As Greenbelt moves forward with requesting federal funding, grants and other money, residents and volunteers who spoke with the News Review say the challenge will be balancing long-term development with immediate needs and ensuring that all parts of the community benefit equally.

Laura Charleston is a University of Maryland student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism writing for the Greenbelt News Review.

Anna Bedford-Dillow contributed to this article.



Election 2026

Nicole Williams Has Suspended Her Campaign for Congress

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On Tuesday, May 5, Nicole Williams suspended her campaign to represent Maryland’s Fifth Congressional District. Williams, a resident of Greenbelt, is currently a Delegate for Maryland’s 22nd Legislative District. She has served as a member of the House of Delegates since December 6, 2019, this year running for Congress rather than re-election. With long-serving U.S. Representative Steny Hoyer retiring, the Fifth Congressional District seat is open. Following redistricting in 2022, Greenbelt lies within the Fourth Congressional District, so Greenbelt residents vote for Fourth District candidates. However, candidates for Congress are not required to live in the district they run in provided they live in the state they represent.

Williams announced that her decision was made “with a heavy heart” but that her campaign did not have the resources to keep pace with opponents’ spending.

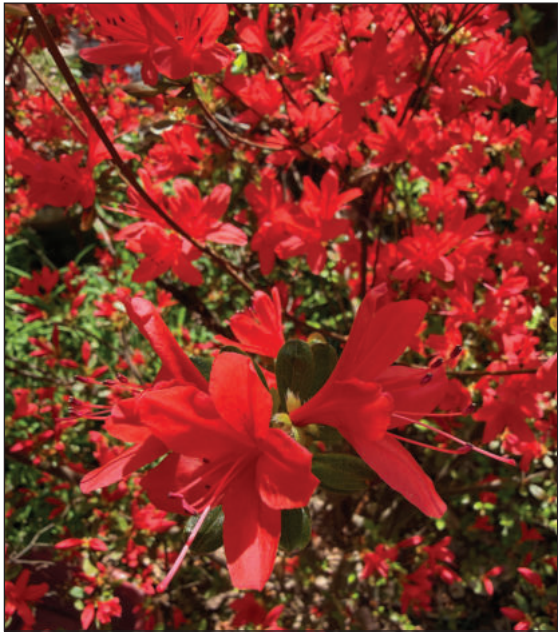
“Perhaps it’s a bit of tragic poetry that, in the midst of an affordability crisis, that even the cost of running to represent the people of Maryland’s Fifth Congressional District is too high,”

said Williams in a social media post on Tuesday. “I believe in earnest that I remain the best candidate to fight and work for Marylanders in Washington, to speak truth to power and to be a tireless progressive voice for women, immigrants and marginalized communities.”

“I’ve been and have become friends with many of the candidates for this seat, and I believe that whichever candidate wins, they’ll make an honest effort to deliver for the people of the Fifth District.” Twenty-three other Democratic candidates are running for the same congressional seat, among the most well-known being Rushern Baker III and Wala Blegay.

Williams said she was humbled by the support of family, friends and those who supported her campaign.

“Rest assured that, though my campaign for Congress may be coming to an end, my devotion to advocacy on behalf of working and marginalized people will never cease, and I look forward to continuing the fight for a more equal, just and affordable America,” wrote Williams.



Red azaleas

PHOTO BY TOM BAKER

Green Ridge House Opens Wait List

Green Ridge House, the City of Greenbelt’s HUD Section 8-202 apartment building, will open its waiting list from Monday, May 11 through 15, 2026 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Applications will not be accepted after 4:00 p.m. each day. Green Ridge House is an independent living apartment building located at 22 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770. All applicants must apply in person and be 62 years of age or older.

There are two new HUD guidelines that must now be followed. First, guidelines now state that any applicant wishing to be added to the waiting list **cannot** own any property (i.e., home, condo, land, etc.). If an applicant owns any property, it must already be listed for sale by a realtor and a contract must be provided when the application is filled out. Second, an applicant cannot have more than \$100,000 in total assets (liquid assets, i.e., checking, savings, CD’s, money market, IRA, 401k, etc.).

All applicants must have with them a valid State ID or Driver’s License and their Social Security card. We cannot accept an application without these two items. All applicants will have a credit and criminal background check performed to determine eligibility. Applicants should be prepared to move within 30 days once they receive a call that a unit is available. Rent is based upon 30 percent of one’s income within a maximum gross income of \$57,400 for individuals and \$65,600 for couples. All apartments are one-bedroom units. Only applicants who would consider moving within the next 6 months to one year should apply. Green Ridge House is a Non-Smoking Building. Green Ridge House follows Federal HUD Guidelines with regards to smoking compliance which prohibits marijuana use, medical or otherwise on its properties. Therefore, regardless of any other permitted use by either prescription, State or local law, or any mechanism that permits medical marijuana use, such medical marijuana use is not permitted on any part of Green Ridge House property.



Council News

Council Hears Budget, Discusses Flood Resilience, CARES, More

by Maurice Crawford

The first of two public hearings for the city’s Fiscal Year 2027 budget was held on Monday, April 27. The budget is scheduled to be adopted on Tuesday, May 26.

Resident Bob Rand gave kudos to the staff and felt that the budget layout keeps getting better. His main concern was the lack of forward thinking regarding equity in the Departmental Issues and Services section. He wondered how the city can best adopt fair or DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion) practices. He believed “... that departments will need to adopt equity and fairness as their own foundational pillars to provide services to residents” and hopes this thinking will be included in the budget plan.

Resident Bill Orleans would like the city to provide a hard-copy of an updated budget to reflect changes made from one worksession to another. He recognizes that they are available on the city’s website at greenbeltmd.gov/336/City-Budget, but not everyone can access it, he says.

Flood Resilience Plan

LimnoTech representatives gave a presentation on flood mitigation options and other recommendations. They used elevation, sewage pipe data, FEMA flood maps and other data to identify flood-prone areas, then provided options to alleviate flooding. The report gives recommendations and costs of various flood prevention techniques that could be used by Greenbelt.

They identified areas that would benefit from either gray or green infrastructure.

Gray infrastructure includes additional street drains, underground tanks to store water, larger sewage pipes and flood protection walls. This infrastructure is relatively expensive, can be disruptive and doesn’t provide water quality benefits.

Green infrastructure mimics nature by using rain gardens, vegetated roofs and permeable pavement that allows water to infiltrate into the ground. It also includes actions like reducing impervious surfaces, rooftop disconnection and rainwater harvesting. These can help improve water quality and provide habitat.

The report provides the pros, cons and approximate cost of each technique. It also describes

best practices to help prevent flooding like storm drain cleaning, local ordinances that enhance flood mitigation and public education.

Collective Bargaining

On the agenda was the first reading of the Collective Bargaining Rights Charter Amendment for City Employees. However, Councilmember Jenni Pompei was not comfortable with this reading because there was a change made to it from what had been discussed. The change regarded the definition of the term “confidential employee” and this change had been made available two hours prior to the meeting. Councilmember Danielle McKinney agreed with Pompei and believed that council needed more time for due diligence.

A motion was made to discuss this further during the April 29 worksession and have the first reading on May 11. The motion passed 6 to 1 with Mayor Emmett Jordan opposed.

Grant Matching Fund

Up for first reading was a resolution to create a restricted Matching Grant Fund to help when a grant to the city asks for matching funds. Currently the operating budget is the only source for such a match; therefore, having a dedicated fund would better support the city’s grant-writing efforts.

Council Planning Framework

McKinney led efforts to develop a strategic planning framework to guide the budget planning document. It recodifies the priorities and goals that council has heard from residents and identifies what is most pertinent regarding the city’s needs. It also guides the metrics that the city manager will use for FY 2027.

It is organized around pillars that are consistent from year to year, although some may be rephrased. The framework also has goals that support each pillar. Under the goals are priority areas that may shift from year to year to adjust to the city’s current needs.

There was some concern on how the pillars aligned, but McKinney will confer with other councilmembers and the city manager to reconcile differences.

CARES

With American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds expiring,

Greenbelt CARES will be losing positions that support its community health efforts, especially its community nursing program. CARES would like to become a 501(c)(3) nonprofit which would allow it to apply for a wider range of grants that help the community. Pompei presented ideas on how to support CARES at a cost of \$132K for one year while it seeks nonprofit status.

The proposed changes to the budget would include eliminating the recycling center in Greenbelt East, reducing legislative and special program services and restructuring a DEI position.

Jordan pointed out that the council is early in the budget process and that there may be other parts of the budget where savings could be found. Councilmember Silke Pope thanked Pompei for the proposal and pointed out how challenging this year’s budget is given the increases in healthcare costs.

Council unanimously voted to move forward with allowing CARES to seek nonprofit status.

Support for BARC

Council agreed to send a letter to the administration that reiterated its support for the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC).

Proclamations

Jordan made three proclamations celebrating the months of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage, Autism Awareness and Acceptance, and National Poetry.

The National Poetry Month proclamation was presented to Greenbelt’s Poetry in the Garden group, which meets from 3 to 5 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month at the Schrom Hills Park clubhouse, 6915 Hanover Parkway.

GAIL to Celebrate 25th Anniversary

Celebrate the 25th anniversary of Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) program on Monday, May 18, at the Community Center Ground Floor East. Meet the lead character and author of the movie Give Your Parents a Standing Ovation. RSVP to Cesar Herrera at 240-241-0037 by Monday, May 11.

Council Hears Museum Update, Resident Views at Worksession

by Lesley Kash

Part 2 of 2
This report on the Recreation Department budget is divided into two parts. Part 1 (see the April 30 issue) included participants, budget increases and capital projects, potential wage increases, inclusion of non-Greenbelt participants and uses of the Community Center and other venues.

At the April 22 budget worksession, resident Lois Rosado thanked Recreation for supporting Black History and Culture programs. She asked how Active Aging and preschool programs are advertised in Greenbelt West. For Active Aging, Anne Oudemans, assistant director of Recreation-Programs, referenced the therapeutic recreation coordinator’s weekly newsletter to her email list. For the preschool community, she said, word-of-mouth communication is often most effective. Also, Franklin Park management participates with emails and notices to their residents.

Resident J Davis expressed concern about new playing fields during droughts. Recreation Director Greg Varda said the Schrom Hills field has built-in irrigation and Braden Field has irrigation lines. Davis also asked if programs were discontinued for financial reasons, specifically archery. Varda attributed that discontinuation to waning interest in archery and unavailability of instruction.

Resident Michael Hartman suggested larger footprints for greater accessibility at Buddy Attick Park pavilions. Varda replied that they were as large as the budget allowed.

Resident Bill Orleans suggested increasing commercial tax rates as revenue sources, and Councilmember Jenni Pompei agreed. Mayor Emmett Jordan said he and City Manager Josué Salmerón had been exploring the concept with other municipalities. Councilmember Frankie Fritz asked for details on a new proposed utility rate. Salmerón offered comparisons with other municipalities, and proposed more research before the next budget.

Jordan asked why pool visit numbers are unchanged. According to Varda, numbers primarily

reflect faithful passholders continuing to renew.

Jordan praised special events teams’ and park rangers’ performance, even at very large events like egg hunts. Oudemans clarified that virtually every recreation department employee is a special events team member. Recreation Coordinator Patrick Mullen and park rangers, formerly Recreation-oriented, now support every city event. Pompei and Councilmember Kristen Weaver praised the rangers for efficient responses to difficult conditions at two important events.

The Museum

Jordan thanked Greenbelt Museum Director Megan Searing Young for her management of the museum, as well as her extensive efforts helping the Reparations Commission. Noting significant state funding for the Museum, he asked about plans for the future Visitor Center. Searing Young and Varda said planning, contracting and hiring project management are underway. Demolition and construction will begin in Fiscal Year 2027, with creative program adjustments.

Asked if Museum visits have rebounded since Covid, Searing Young said Sunday visits have but walking tour participation has not. Visitor Center publicity may bring in newcomers. Additional funds may result from grants and fundraising by Friends of the Greenbelt Museum (FOGM). Jordan asked if city publicity has brought visitors and if that information is tracked, and Searing Young said visitors are asked and many mention public information notices and the News Review.

Councilmember Amy Knesel asked if the Museum board advertises. Searing Young described Museum email blasts, newsletters, social media presence and tabling at city events.

Fritz said affordable housing is an active topic and Greenbelt’s naturally occurring affordable housing appeals to that interest. He recommended that the new facility be a comprehensive visitor center.

Councilmember Danielle

See RECREATION, page 11

OSCAR WILDE'S

SALOME

RUDE MECHANICALS 1990S EDITION

MAY 7-16, 2026

< SPM THURSDAYS
MAY 7 & 14 >
PAY-WHAT-YOU-WILL
THURSDAY PRICING!

< SPM FRIDAYS
MAY 8 & 15 >

< SPM SATURDAYS
MAY 9 & 16 >

< 2PM SUNDAY
MAY 10 >
FACEMASKS REQUIRED
FOR MATINEE.
TALKBACK WITH CAST
& CREW TO FOLLOW!

SCAN QR CODE OR VISIT GREENBELTARTSCENTER.ORG FOR TICKETS!

NEW! “How to Prepare for
GHI’s 2026 Yard Inspection”

www.GreenbeltOnline.org/inspection



2026 GHI Election: May 14–15

Check your Email!

The 2026 annual membership meeting will be in the Community Center Gym. You must be on-site to participate.

As in recent years, GHI has contracted Simply Voting to host this year's election. Simply Voting will send emails to GHI member addresses on file with a link to your ballot.

If you plan to vote online, it is your responsibility to ensure GHI has your current email address as soon as possible. You can update or confirm your email address by contacting GHI Member Services.

All members (with and without email) can vote in person Thursday immediately after the annual meeting, or Friday 4–8pm at the GHI Office.



Board of Directors

(4 of 9 positions up for election: 2-year terms)

Carl Sanders
2 Court Southway

I've lived with my wife and son in GHI since 2022. I was elected to the GHI Audit Committee in Spring 2025 and chosen to fill a Board of Directors vacancy late that year. Our family has been involved in community organizations throughout Old Greenbelt, and I wouldn't want to live anywhere else.

My platform centers on investing in GHI's future. We are told by the culture to treat the future as a threat—something to hedge against by cutting investment, deferring maintenance, and taking shortcuts on quality. I reject that. We're watching in real time what happens to a country that tries to mortgage its future: vital services are eliminated and nothing works as well as it used to. GHI has the opportunity to show that democracy, cooperation, and forward-thinking make a community flourish.

The value of thoughtful investment will guide my concrete policy positions. For example, if the purchase of 121 Centerway proves financially responsible, GHI should take this initial step toward a revitalized town center. (As an economist by training and trade, I'll insist on financial due diligence.) We need action on proposals to allow members on fixed incomes to use equity to pay high co-op fees. And we need green stormwater infrastructure and tree management to moderate flood risk.

A vision of an ideal community got us what we have now: houses still standing nearly 100 years later; green, natural spaces; and local volunteer governance. We still need that spirit now.

I'd appreciate your vote.

Debbie McKinley
55 Court Ridge

I am running again for the Board of Directors because I believe my contributions on the Board over the last two years have been valuable in maintaining GHI as a vibrant community and continuing the solid fiscal standing of the cooperative. I have recently served as chair of the Storm Water Management Committee as well as the Handbook Task Force. The Storm Water Committee was actively involved in establishing raingardens to manage stormwater and instrumental in obtaining a part-time employee focused on maintaining and

Path	Prerequisite	Where & When	Method
1. Absentee	Cast ballot for Board & Audit Committee before annual meeting	GHI Office During office hours May 8, 11, or 12	Submit absentee ballot application at GHI Office, then immediately vote on paper ballot
2. Online	Current email address must be on file with GHI	Simply Voting website After annual meeting Thursday May 14 until 8pm Friday May 15	Secure personalized link from Simply Voting on your smartphone, tablet, or computer
3. Annual Meeting	Not already voted	Community Center Immediately after annual meeting	In-person supported online voting
4. In Person at GHI	Not already voted	GHI Office 4–8pm Friday May 15	In-person supported online voting

Choose your path to vote!

Sign-in for the May 14 annual membership meeting opens at 7:00pm in the Community Center Gym. **Members must be on site to participate in the annual meeting.** The election for Board and Audit Committee begins when the meeting goes into recess. Members can vote online or in-person.

Candidates for GHI Election

These GHI members have formally indicated their agreement to serve if elected, and provided these biographical sketches to the Nominations & Elections (N&E) Committee. Electronic ballots for Board of Directors and Audit Committee will be cast online and in-person, described above. Members of our 9-member board are elected to staggered 2-year terms, with 4 directors elected in even years and 5 in odd years. Because GHI Members elect the N&E Committee during the annual meeting, N&E is not on the electronic ballot. Candidates are listed here in reverse alphabetical order by last name, but each electronic ballot will list candidates in random order.

improving GHI's existing stormwater management system. The Handbook Task Force restructured the existing GHI Handbook (the Green Book) to make the handbook requirements clearer to members and make the handbook fully searchable. The Task Force also presented to the Board of Directors many of the suggestions offered by members for how the handbook could be further improved. I have supported our Board President, Stefan Brodd, over the last two years as Vice President. In my role, I have taken on the responsibility of overseeing the many committees and task forces serving the membership. I believe my attention to detail is of value to the Board of Directors in executing its mandate. I have enjoyed working with the current board members and look forward to working with the next board.

Ed James
56 Court Crescent

Ed has been an active GHI member since 1977. He has been a Director for 20 years and Secretary for 18 years. He serves on the Buildings, Bicycle, Investment, Finance, and Woodlands Committees.

Ed has previously served as GHI Treasurer and on the GHI Audit Committee, been a Greenbelt Jaycees Treasurer, Greenbelt CPR instructor, Greenbelt Internet Access Cooperative Director (co-founder), New Deal Cafe Director and Audit Committee member, a member of Green ACES, an Old Greenbelt Neighborhood Watch Co-Chair (co-founder), and more recently the President of the Greenbelt Federal Credit Union Board. He has also acted as a fiscal agent (via the GCDC) for numerous GHI entities, such as the Greenbelt Theatre, the Maker Space, the Greenbelt News Review, and the Greenbelt Business Alliance.

His education includes degrees in Physics, Biochemistry, Zoology, and Computer Science. His professional experience includes Martin Marietta Labs, the International Monetary Fund, Sprint, the University of Maryland, EPA, NASA, and DOT. He retired early as a Software Engineer

Ed was heavily involved with the HIP project by working on the test and production portions of HIP. Ed is involved with the planning of upcoming programs, such as the proposed WSSC pipe replacement program, and future replacement programs for some electrical and plumbing systems. Ed works to keep GHI on solid footing financially, physically, and culturally.

Stefan Brodd
2 Court Westway

I have been a member of GHI since 1999, and a resident of Greenbelt since 1981. I was elected to the Board of Directors in 2016, serving first as Vice-President, and as President since November of 2020. I have chaired, served as Board liaison, or served as a member on a number of committees and task forces, including Member Outreach, Legislative and Government Affairs, Zoning, Transition, and Maglev. Professionally I am a musician serving two American and three Nordic churches, and collaborating with my husband Christopher Cherry in musical programs for the City of Greenbelt and other area organizations; in a previous career I worked at NASA–Goddard Space Flight Center in software development and data analysis. I have served as a board member and volunteer for several non-profit organizations. I am committed to cooperative ideals and, in particular, to their living embodiment in GHI.

Audit Committee
(All 3 positions up for election for 1-year terms)

Kerry Loring
35 Court Ridge

Hello Community Members, my name is Kerry Loring and I have been a resident of GHI since November 2015. I am a recent retiree from the Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of General Counsel and I have been a public interest attorney for over 38 years. My legal background includes drafting legislation and regulations, serving as an adjunct law professor, and appellate practice. I've also served as pro bono counsel in a variety of areas.

My first year as a member of GHI I joined the inaugural Legislative Affairs Committee which I deeply appreciated and enjoyed for 5 years. In addition, I was a board member of my children's Montessori school many years ago. I believe these experiences allow me to serve our community well as a member of the Audit Committee.

In serving on the Audit committee, I hope to proceed as my predecessors have; ensuring that the actions of our Board and management are in compliance with GHI bylaws and established policies, and most importantly, are conducted in accordance with sound and ethical business practices and transparency for our membership.

BUDGET continued from page 1

GAIL Community Nursing
Of primary concern was the discontinuation of GAIL's community nursing program, which often provides service in homes. The community health coordinator position, which is funded by ARPA, is essential to the program.

Many of the city's seniors have come to rely upon this program for preventative treatment and monitoring, and to remain in Greenbelt. Batey said that this year alone saw over 550 visits. No fee is required from Greenbelt residents.

Residents of Green Ridge House will continue to receive this service as it is a HUD Section 8 senior building funded by

grants from the Maryland Department of Aging.

Batey informed council that the community nursing program is in its 20th year. Nursing interns from several local nursing schools such as Catholic University, Bowie State University and Washington Adventist University act as the staff. They are unpaid, the program existing as part of their schooling.

ARPA-funded Positions, Programs
In addition, the situation could lead to the loss of key positions that are also currently funded by ARPA. These are the full-time bilingual community health case worker and the part-time community case manager. These posi-

tions are especially beneficial to residents in Greenbelt West.

Franklin Park receives many assistance programs from CARES funded by ARPA in addition to community nursing, such as case management, food distributions and health and resource fairs. In a subsequent interview, Park reported that "we are still assessing what programs can continue if staff is lost."

The programs at Springhill Lake Recreation Center will continue, as these are funded separately. These include GED classes, tutoring, ESOL classes and workforce development.

Potential Approaches
The representatives proposed

two approaches that may lead at least to partial funding for some of these at-risk programs. The first would see CARES and GAIL apply for 501(c)(3) nonprofit status, allowing greater financial autonomy and the ability to apply for more grants. The other is to have the clinical mental health staff become specifically credentialed to allow them to bill Medicaid and Medicare for individual and family counseling services.

The potential cuts in these integral services were of grave concern to all present. Mayor Emmett Jordan noted that what CARES and GAIL provide is unique for municipalities. Councilmember Jenni Pompi remarked

that they have been transformative, as well as life-saving.

Meals on Wheels
Meals on Wheels of College Park presented next, represented by Chair Lisa Ealley and Secretary Maria Newsom. The organization is in its 52nd year and has run continuously, even through the pandemic. It serves 40 to 50 households in Greenbelt, mostly at Green Ridge House.

The agency operates with over 100 volunteers, 30 of whom are in Greenbelt. Volunteers must cover their own fuel costs. Newsom extolled the exemplary efforts of these volunteers who have gladly

See BUDGET, page 10

Candidates for GHI Election (continued)

Audit Committee Continued

Nick Leanos
56 Court Ridge

Hi! I'm Nick Leanos and I'm running for Audit Committee.

I moved to Greenbelt from Silver Spring after a brief period in Cheverly. I was attracted by the strength of the community, its walkability, and its access to regional transit systems, like MARC and Metro. I've lived here since 2013.

A Syracuse University graduate, I earned my degrees in Rhetoric and Mass Communication. I started my career working in print journalism, writing stories for Patuxent Publishing Company, a subsidiary of the Baltimore Sun, before transitioning to broadcast journalism, starting out in radio at WJHU (now WYPR) in Baltimore before transitioning again to sports journalism. I drive Greenbelters to regional airports, etc. otherwise.

I'm running because I'm committed to making this community a better place. That begins by thinking outside the box. Asking questions. Offering a differing opinion and a different perspective. GHI needs to always make sure that every voice and every member is heard loud and clear. The Audit Committee, in my view, serves that purpose -to be your voice. It doesn't serve anyone by being a rubber stamp. The Audit Committee essentially serves as the checks and balances for GHI, making sure that the cooperative is operating in the best interests of its members.

If elected, I promise to listen to member needs, appreciate different perspectives, work to create an environment of transparency so members are aware of the Board's proceedings, be approachable, and use my outspokenness to serve the greater good.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Bill Jones
15 Court Ridge

- A retired college math and computer science professor.
- Lived in GHI since 2004.
- Member of GHI's Finance and Investment Committees since 2006.
- Chair of the Membership Committee for New Deal Cafe since 2011.
- On the GHI Board Of Directors from 2011 until 2021.
- On the Board of the Coop Grocery from 2012 until 2024.
- Treasurer of Streetlights Of Bethany from 2008 until 2018.
- Deliverer of Meals On Wheels from 2017 to 2020.
- I have also been Treasurer of the New Deal Café Coop (2016–2018), a volunteer intake worker at Bread For The City in DC (2004–2011), a volunteer reading tutor at Greenbelt Elementary School (2011–2016), and an actor and director at Greenbelt Arts Theater and other community theaters (2004–2016).
- Most recently I have been Treasurer of the Greenbelt Refugee Aid Committee for three years. We help refugee families from Ukraine by paying their rent and giving them other support.
- I have been on the Audit Committee for four years, and I hope you will vote for me in the election. I work to make sure that our members get the best value for their coop fees.

Michael Campbell
14 Court Ridge

My wife, daughter, and I have been proud GHI residents since 2020—we genuinely enjoy being part of this community and love taking advantage of everything Greenbelt has to offer.

Professionally, I work at the University of Maryland as a Project Manager, with prior jobs spanning software engineering, project management, and data analysis. Within GHI, I've had the chance to contribute as a volunteer on the Permit Reform and Simplification Task Force and on the Search and Selection Committee for our new General Manager.

I'll be honest—I wasn't familiar with the Audit Committee's role before I was approached to run for it, and I suspect many of you might be in the same boat! The committee is responsible for reviewing GHI's finances and ensuring the cooperative operates in accordance with its bylaws and policies. I think this is an important role and if elected, I'll bring the same attention to detail, common sense, and focus on making good use of resources that I try to apply in my day job and in my previous GHI service.

On a broader note, I care about making GHI more welcoming and affordable for people at all stages of life, and I hope to keep that spirit in mind in whatever way I can contribute.

Nominations & Elections Committee
(All 5 positions up for election for 1-year terms)

Luisa Robles
32 Court Ridge

I've called GHI home since the spring of 2001—it's my silver anniversary with Greenbelt: 25 years!

I first stumbled into GHI while pursuing my PhD at UMD. What began as a simple movie outing at the theater quickly turned into a lifelong relationship after I fell in love with the Roosevelt Center, the inner walkways, the woods, the gardens, and the thoughtfully designed layout of the community. (One movie, zero regrets.)

At the time, I already knew several UMD students living in Old Greenbelt, all of whom spoke about the place with genuine appreciation for the sense of community and place. My academic background is in environmental sciences and sustainable development, so naturally I ended up settling in a planned community where sustainability, walkability, and passionate discussion are simply part of daily life.

I now serve as the City of Greenbelt's Sustainability Coordinator, which feels like a very on brand outcome. Over the years, I've also served on GHI's Board of Directors and the Woodlands Committee, as well as the City's Forest Preserve Advisory Board—because in Greenbelt, you don't just move in, you eventually join at least one committee (whether you mean to or not).

At this point, GHI isn't just where I live—it's part of my identity, my professional life, and how I spend a surprising amount of my free time.

Joe Ralbovsky
62 Court Ridge
Joe is 70% water.

Tom Jones
1 Court Woodland

Tom has served on Nominations & Elections for 12 years, including the past 11 years as chair. Tom grew up on Northway and has been a GHI member since 1997. His grandparents moved into 11 Court Southway in May 1942.

Tom has a Physics degree from New Mexico Tech and an MBA from Loyola University Maryland. He works as a Software Technical Program Manager at the University of Maryland Center for Advanced Transportation Technology Laboratory (CATT Lab) within the Civil Engineering department, managing and analyzing the nation's transportation data.

In 2010, Tom chaired the GHI Finance Report Subcommittee draft revisions to make the annual report easier to understand. In 2011, he chaired the GHI website redesign committee, and later served on the GHI Information Technology task force. In 2021, Tom and his wife Johanna proposed comprehensive GHI permit reform. Their home was in the Pipe Repair and Refurbishment Pilot Program (PRRPP).

With other cooperatives founded in Greenbelt, Tom has served on the News Review Board of Directors since 2014. He has also served on the New Deal Café Audit Committee for 5 years and the Rapidan Camps Board of Directors for 22 years, including 15 years as president.

Tom also manages the website and photography team for the Baltimore Kinetic Sculpture Race hosted by the American Visionary Art Museum.

Theresa R. Henderson
1 Court Laurel Hill

Theresa was born and raised in the Washington, D.C. area. She has lived in GHI since 1983. She currently enjoys living on Laurel Hill Rd. with her husband Steve, their adult child Maddy, their two cats and a bird. She is currently employed at the USDA Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center as a Support Scientist/Biochemist. She is presently serving on the Nominations and Elections Committee for her eleventh term and has been delighted to work with the other committee members, the GHI Board and the GHI staff. She would be honored to serve this cooperative on this committee for another term

Dan Gillotte
135 Northway

Dan Gillotte is a long time cooperator having first become a member of a food co-op in Maine in 1992. Dan has been the manager of food co-ops since 1998 and moved here (and became a member of GHI) spring 2020. Dan has served on numerous boards over the years including:

- National Co-op Grocers (6 years total and 3 years as board chair)
- Co-op Grocers Information Network (7 years total, as president for 5 years)
- AHB Community School (3 years total, as chair for one year)
- Austin Independent Business Alliance (for more than a decade as a founding member)

Dan has worked for boards for his whole adult life and understands the importance of board perpetuation for successful organizations. He loves living in this cooperative community of GHI and Greenbelt and is happy to serve if elected on the small but mighty nominations committee.

Letters continued from p.2

this successful structure risks signaling that the city is stepping back from its commitment to represent all Greenbelt residents.

I urge council to maintain the structural integrity of employee equity and inclusion work. We might consider a title like the Office of Employee Engagement and Inclusion, but we must continue the essential work of community healing and trust-building.

Lois Rosado, Bob Rand, Chiquita Jackson and eight others

Roof Not Repaired After 10 Months

Last summer the News Review promptly and accurately reported on damage that was done to the roof of Building 53C of the Parke Crescent Apartments when a tree fell during the course of a storm. Ten months later, Donaldson Property Management which operates this building has not repaired the roof. Initially a tarp was placed on the roof, and the tarp is still there. I have asked repeatedly about a repair date and was told December and have not received any accurate information. It is a shame that a company that claims to be doing great for its investors is treating this property with such neglect.

*Lisa Crawley
Resident, Parke Crescent Apartments*



Speed and Stop Sign Cameras

Let me start off by saying at age 65, driving for 50 years, with several million miles driven, I have never received a ticket that I did not deserve, ever. In fact, there were many times that I should have either received a ticket or been given a larger fine.

We arrived in Maryland three years ago from a state that did not have speeding or stop sign systems. Within the first two months, I received two minor speeding tickets by camera that I deserved. So in order to not receive further tickets, I set my cruise control, even here in Greenbelt, at 25 mph. Guess what, no more speeding fines. It was not a complicated formula or decision.

I try to walk everywhere here (no tickets) in GHI and I can tell you that 95 percent of the drivers refuse to stop at a stop sign for some strange reason. Maybe they can't read or their brakes or foot are broken? A major California roll intersection is Southway and Crescent, a big intersection, and drivers tend not to watch or stop. It's human nature to not want a penalty, so you will notice at Southway and Ridge everybody stops.

Having said that, I recommend speed cameras and stop sign cameras on every road, everywhere. Circles, as in Europe, work perfectly and would avoid the entire intersection stop issue

and save untold amounts of fuel, time, injuries and deaths, but due to poor infrastructure planning, we cannot do circles. I have heard some ask, what about government surveillance? It's too late as that ship has sailed.

Mark Gordon

English, Spanish Story Time May 8

On Friday, May 8 at 10:30 a.m. at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness (RUAK) with the Prince George's County Memorial Library System will present engaging, lively stories and activities in English and Spanish for young children and their caregivers to help build early literacy skills. This monthly program is an introduction to reading aloud to children as a way to instill the love of literature. After the readings, children can stay and play with balls in the gym. There will be free children's books and free healthy nutritious snacks. Come, and spread the word to friends and family.

Los Niños Leen y Juegan

El viernes 8 de Mayo a las 10:30 a.m. en el Centro Recreativo de Springhill Lake, RUAK con la Biblioteca presentarán interesantes historias y actividades divertidas en ingles y español para niños pequeños y sus cuidadores. Habrán libros infantiles gratis y aperitivos saludables y nutritivos. Como dijo un padre al irse, "Fue muy bueno!"

BUDGET continued from page 9

weathered the current challenges. Many of them have rendered personal assistance outside of their delivery runs.

The agency is also facing financial struggles due to the loss of ARPA funding on which they have relied heavily. For those who would like to donate, do so at mealsonwheelsofcollegepark.org or by mail to P.O. Box 797, College Park, MD 20740.

Greenbelt Cinema

Greenbelt Cinema's Executive Director Caitlin McGrath ended the meeting with an update on Greenbelt Cinema. The Cinema is facing financial hurdles as it strives to rebuild itself from the pandemic and adapt to now-prevalent in-home streaming of films. Since 2020, the Cinema has seen a large drop-off in all of its financial elements, with expenses outpacing profits.

Streaming has resulted in shorter film release windows (now around 45 days, from 90 to 120 days pre-pandemic). There has also been a drop in the number of films released in theaters, with many going straight to streaming platforms.

The Cinema is confronted by consumers taking advantage of lower streaming costs (compared to theaters) and the ease of staying home to view movies.

McGrath reported on the many ways that the Cinema has adapted to the present environment through community engagement. One is to have one-off events (there were 182 last year) where films are paired with input from experts that connected with the films shown. The Cinema has many series that inspire those avid for certain genres to enjoy. It has also had a robust relationship with youth and local schools, such as the partnership with Silver Oaks Cooperative School, where students produce and screen their own Public Service Announcements (PSAs), and the effort to bring 16-millimeter films to classrooms, paid for by the Miller Fund.

The past year has seen a steady increase in membership, social media usage and its number of patrons, now 26,000; however, this is down from 40,000 pre-pandemic.

McGrath noted that the Cinema is very understaffed, hoping if possible to double its staffing numbers, allowing more sustainability and overlap in skills. All present remarked that the Cinema is an essential anchor for Roosevelt Center and that it provides much stimulating entertainment and community engagement. In the city budget, \$75,000 has been earmarked for the Cinema, though that still leaves it facing a \$40,000 deficit.

City Manager Josué Salmerón and council all agreed that the upcoming budget will be very tight, requiring many tough decisions in the effort to sustain many services that residents have come to depend on.

Concerning the city's health, Councilmember Amy Knesel stated that it is time to develop a more community-driven approach, where all residents can play a role in the well-being of their neighbors, remarking that the city is "a society together, surviving together."



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AWARDS continued from page 1

Second place: Zoe Smithen, Frederick Douglass High School. Her work was titled Black Women: Our Pregnancies’ Struggles Being Exploited. Smithen’s emotional and historic work focused on the exploitation of Black American women’s bodies from enslavement to the present. She pointed out how J. Marion Sims, considered the father of gynecology, experimented on enslaved women using nothing to deaden their pain. Sims’ claim that Black women could tolerate high pain levels is a lie that persists to this day.

Third place: Aniyah Marie Bryant, Oxon Hill High School. She wrote her essay on Forgotten Sons. Bryant was unable to attend the ceremony.

Creative Writing

First place: Sidney Foster, Academy of Health Sciences at Prince George’s Community College. He wrote Silhouettes of Prince George’s County.

Second place: Hannah Louis, Academy of Health Sciences at Prince George’s Community College. She titled her work, From Our Roots to Our Leaves, which described intersectional trauma as a tree trunk. Louis encouraged her peers to not get discouraged and to attend to their physical and mental health for healing.

Third place: Isaiah Ali, Frederick Douglass High School. He wrote the poem They Built Walls. We Breathe Smoke, about racial environmental injustice. Ali describes how industrial companies build their sites near mostly African American communities and spew hazardous materials in their direction, causing numerous health challenges for the residents. He called for clean air that blows truth and asked that those who learn the realities of the



Fighting for the Ballot by Michelle Washington - Photos by Lois Rosado

health challenges demand change.

Visual Arts

First place: Kennedy Chapple, Suitland High School. She used mixed media in her work, Seen, Not Heard, to describe the alienation and challenges of her peers. Her mother was present to accept her award. Chapple was attending the band competition at her high school.

Second place: Michelle Washington, Academy of Health Sciences at Prince George’s Community College. She called her work Fighting for the Ballot. Washington used digital design to complete her work exploring the historic fight by African Americans for voting rights. Her subject connected the audience to the recent gutting of section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.

Third place: Nicole Igbozulike, Charles Flowers High School. She honored Frederick Douglass in her work The Hurt of Knowing. Igbozulike described how learning to read, especially during Douglass’ time, was both a bless-



Livia Luu, Eleanor Roosevelt High School

ing and a curse, because reading broadens the mind which then enables one to see the constraints and opportunities in the world at the same time.

Also Recognized

Dr. Khadija Ali Coleman, the former Prince George’s County Poet Laureate (2023-2025), shared a Langston Hughes poem about the djembe drum or what

See AWARDS, page 16

Greenbelters Cross Paths



PHOTO COURTESY BECKY RACKIS

Greenbelters cross paths as they navigate different routes in the Adriatic. Constance Davis, left, and Becky Rackis meet up with Dean Boyd for lunch in one of the many scenic outdoor restaurants in Dubrovnik, Croatia.

City Notes

Economic Development, City Manager and Constituent Services attended the monthly Greenbelt Business Alliance networking event. Constituent Services and Public Works hosted the second annual Touch-a-Truck event.

Code Enforcement did six inspections in Franklin Park, 12 on Hanover Parkway and two in Roosevelt Center. After one cat adoption, Animal Shelter residents are six cats, seven kittens and four dogs.

Recycling/Sustainability held an electronics recycling event and trained staff about heat exhaustion and fire safety.

For Earth Day, Environmental, Park Rangers and 45 volunteers removed 200 pounds of trash along the Greenbelt Lake shoreline and planted 40 trees and shrubs. Parks/Ballfields built a raised garden at Green Ridge House.

Arts received a \$1,000 county grant for after-school art and field trips for Springhill Lake Elementary School.

Therapeutic Recreation hosted an art social for seniors and Park Rangers supported Arts’ raku pottery firing at Schrom Hills Park.

The Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) program’s monthly food distribution served 475 residents in 204 households and distributed 3,000 diapers.



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RECREATION continued from page 7

McKinney wondered if the Museum might emulate the Black History Month traveling museum. Searing Young suggested creating a suitcase of artifacts to take to schools and events.

Jordan asked about the condition of the city’s wayside panels. Davis said the information panels are almost unreadable. Searing Young said she would survey needed repairs or updates, and said QR codes are possible.

Rosado praised Searing Young for her many contributions to the Reparations Commission, anticipating future presentations.

Davis asked about FOGM membership and fundraising, recommending more efforts soliciting small donations. Searing Young said FOGM is planning such efforts.

Davis asked about the Greenbelt Library’s Tugwell Room collection (which includes Greenbelt history), which Searing Young said is in good condition and usable. Orleans asked about ongoing indexing of the collection; Searing Young said the Museum is following its progress.

Hartman asked about Museum parking and accessibility plans for the Visitor Center. Searing Young said the planning includes accessibility. Visitors are advised to park at the Library, with limited parking in the Museum driveway for those with accessibility needs.

Facilities Revenue

Jordan asked about park per-

mit revenue. Andrew Phelan, assistant director of recreation facilities and operations, answered, referencing the Buddy Attick Park pavilions which have been available since October 2025 and are booked regularly, especially on weekends. Previous years’ incomes were low before those rentals were available. Jordan asked about enforcement when renters encounter non-compliant occupants. Varda emphasized that park rangers are ambassadors, not enforcers. Phelan described their system: rangers check locations, meet renters, explain rules, monitor events and afterward do check-out. Security deposits rarely need to be withheld.

Jordan asked about tennis court revenue, and with an uptick in use in recent years, wondered why revenue is low. Varda said rentals seem to be increasing with the addition of lights, and use is first-come, first-served with

few reservations. Salmerón asked about high energy use by field lights, and Phelan said LED lights are under consideration. Also, the outdated token payment system may need updating. Jordan asked about payment for baseball lighting. Phelan said structures are in place for reservations, rental inquiries and fees.

Weaver advocated lighting the volleyball courts, and Phelan said that could probably be achieved by adjusting current lighting. Salmerón, council and recreation shared ideas about finding additional revenue and seeking additional county funding for city recreation facilities used by non-residents.

Jordan thanked Recreation for all their efforts making Greenbelt a delightful place to live and Varda credited his staff for their great work.

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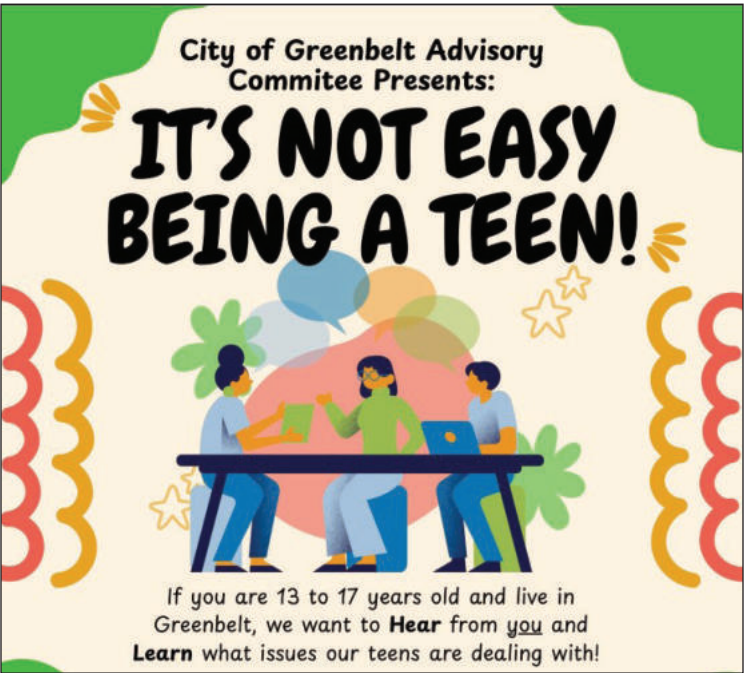
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It's Not Easy Being a Teen: Recruiting for Focus Group

by Stan Zirkin and Peggy Higgins



The city's Advisory Committee Advancing Public Safety (ACAPS) is planning an Invest in Our Youth Forum anticipated for this spring or summer to address issues faced by teens in Greenbelt and to explore what additional steps can be taken to alleviate these problems.

This initiative arose in response to multiple separate shootings in Franklin Park in September and October 2025 resulting in the death of three individuals including a 14-year-old, and other problematic behavior among 13- to 17-year-olds as reported by the Greenbelt Police Department.

To identify themes to address at the forum and better understand the issues faced by teens, particularly those involved in problematic behavior, members of ACAPS interviewed police officers, educators, recreation staff, social workers and others who have had close and regular connections with Greenbelt youth. The consensus was that for the forum to be more meaningful,

ACAPS needed direct input from teens.

ACAPS is now in the process of recruiting teens to participate in Teen Talk to assist the committee in its efforts. Recruitment ends Friday, May 15. The in-person Teen Talk will be held by the end of May with the specific date/time to be determined.

Recognizing that time and money are issues for many teens, participating teens will receive a financial incentive and free food. See the QR code for interested teens to directly apply. To register or for more information contact Peggy Higgins, higgins20770@aol.com.

Stan Zirkin and Peggy Higgins are a member and the chair of ACAPS, respectively.



Chess Club May Meetings

The Greenbelt Chess Club will meet on Tuesdays, May 12, 19 and 26, at the Youth Center from 6:30 to 8:50 p.m. The club welcomes people of all ages and skill levels. To be added to our mailing list, visit tinyurl.com/yey2nz4m and complete the brief form. Email questions to greenbeltchessclub@gmail.com.



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POLICE continued from page 1

Public Information Officer Ricardo Dennis met with the News Review to discuss the important work of the unit and some of the modern detective work officers are involved in.

Serious Cases

Bowers said the award “represents a culmination of a six-month time frame” in which detectives handled some of the city’s most serious cases while operating short-staffed. The unit, typically composed of four detectives and a supervisor, completed the work with only three detectives due to a military deployment.

During that period, the CIU investigated three homicides, including the shooting of 14-year-old Carlin Bayong, along with multiple shootings, robberies and other violent incidents. They announced arrests in two of the homicides in April. Working alongside local, state and federal partnerships, the unit secured more than 70 search warrants and made 31 criminal arrests tied to those cases.

Scale of Effort

Bowers emphasized the scale of effort behind those numbers. The procedure for securing a warrant requires writing in specific details on what they are searching for and making sure the execution is properly conducted and that they know what to do with the data “to make it mean something.” Frequently major investigations now involve multiple warrants to different organizations for cellphone and social media information or camera footage, for example. “The amount of work that goes into that search warrant really is substantial,” said Bowers. “The biggest cases that we were able to close out, which were the contact shootings and two of the three homicides we had last year, consumed hundreds of hours of staff time to complete those investigations.”

Roberson described how modern investigations rely heavily on digital footprints. “Cellphone and

social media are the two big drivers, and that’s most investigations now,” Roberson said. “People post what they do, or post where they are ... that allows us to go behind what they did and kind of give us more context.”

That approach, combined with regional partnerships, helped investigators close major cases, including two of the three homicides. Police worked closely with Prince George’s County units and other agencies to identify suspects and gather evidence. The work also led to the recovery of seven firearms, including weapons used in two homicides, according to department officials.

Crime Trends

Despite the severity of the cases, citywide crime trends have improved. According to monthly crime reports, the total number of offenses in Greenbelt is down 30 percent compared with the previous year. Officials attribute that decline to a combination of enforcement, prosecution and policy changes, particularly regarding juvenile offenders.

Juvenile crime remains a central challenge. Investigators said a significant portion of recent violent offenses involved young suspects, complicating both investigations and prosecutions. “You deal with juveniles, it makes stuff a little trickier,” said Dennis, noting legal and procedural limitations on what can be released and how cases are handled. Roberson added that repeat juvenile offenses can strain resources. “The juveniles are primarily the driver of a lot of our crime,” he said.

Evidence Collection

Investigators also pointed to the time-consuming nature of digital evidence collection as a major obstacle. Requests to social media companies and tech providers can take days or weeks, delaying progress even when suspects are known. “It’s not like TV,” Dennis said. “This stuff does not happen within the same day or overnight

or the same week typically.”

Still, officials say, the CIU’s work demonstrates the department’s ability to adapt and solve complex cases using evolving investigative techniques. The unit also credited tools such as license plate readers and traffic cameras with helping identify suspect vehicles and generate leads in violent crimes.

Community Connection

Beyond enforcement, officers emphasized their connection to the community. Many members of the department live locally or actively engage with residents through outreach programs and events. “We do legitimately care,” said Roberson. “Most of our officers are community-driven. They prefer going to the community events. They love interacting with the public.”

CIU Citation

The unit citation highlights not only case closures but also the sustained effort required to maintain public safety in a small department handling a wide range of crimes. As Bowers noted, unlike larger agencies with specialized teams, Greenbelt’s CIU investigates everything from homicides to robberies. “We have one unit, and they take every criminal investigation that’s assigned to them, regardless of the severity of it,” he said. Officials say the recognition underscores the unit’s professionalism, teamwork and commitment to justice and its role in bringing closure to victims while helping keep the Greenbelt community safe.

Laura Charleston is a University of Maryland student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism interning at the Greenbelt News Review.



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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred April 27-May 3, 2026. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an inquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Incident Summary

Greenbelt Police reported one death; one sexual assault; three mental health diversions, two involving suicide; and four domestic incidents, two leading to arrest and two involving Child Protective Services. Of three missing juveniles, one returned home and one was found by police; one girl is missing without her phone.

A man repeatedly contacted a woman in violation of a protective order.

A child received minor injuries from a go-kart accident, and was helped by Greenbelt Fire Department.

Disorderly with Arrest

On May 3 at 12:33 a.m. near 9310 Edmonston Road, officers located a man who was knocking on residents' doors and causing a disturbance in the hallway. He appeared to be highly intoxicated and was holding two butcher knives. Officers repeatedly told him to drop the knives; he complied and was arrested.

Threats

On May 2 at 5:20 p.m. at 11 Parkway, a woman's family member threatened to set her and her apartment on fire. Fire Marshals took over the investigation.

DUI Arrest

On April 28 at 8:58 p.m. near Breezewood Drive and Cherrywood Terrace, patrolling led to the arrest of a man for DUI.

Fraud

On April 28 near 4 Plateau Place, a woman was contacted by a man claiming to be from Microsoft Security who told her that fraudulent activity had been detected on her computer. She was scammed out of a large amount of money.

On May 1 near 5914 Cherrywood Terrace, a person's friend's phone was hacked, and the person sent money thinking it was going to the friend.

Theft and Shoplifting

On April 27 at 5:40 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man stole items on three different days during the past week. Loss prevention staff knows his face and can identify him.

On April 28 at 11:02 a.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man stole multiple items and fled on foot.

On April 30 at 11:15 a.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man was stopped after stealing merchandise. He was released on a criminal citation, and the merchandise was returned.

On April 30 at 5:09 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, loss prevention staff called to report a shoplifting theft.

On May 1 at 10:11 a.m. near 5807 Cherrywood Terrace, a package containing two government phones was stolen from a doorstep.

On May 2 at 1:18 p.m. near Spellman Overpass, a weed pulling system was stolen.

On May 2 at 2:05 p.m. near 7607 Greenbelt Road, a man stole a gray cooler bag and fled.

Trespassing

On April 30 at 5:07 p.m. near 5707 Cherrywood Lane, a man was issued a criminal citation for trespassing.

On April 30 at 9 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man was arrested for trespassing, and possessing paraphernalia and con-

trolled dangerous substances. He was taken to Upper Marlboro Department of Corrections.

On May 1 at 10:38 p.m. near 5707 Cherrywood Lane, officers found a trespasser causing a public disturbance while intoxicated.

Vandalism

On May 1 near 446 Ridge Road, a building's front glass door was smashed.

Vehicle Crimes

Stolen Vehicles

On April 28 near 6221 Springhill Court, a 2016 Dodge Charger (Md. 8EF4709) was stolen.

Stolen Vehicles Recovered

On April 27 near 6220 Breezewood Drive, a stolen 2020 Honda Accord from another jurisdiction was located.

On April 30 near 7719 Ora Court, a 2017 Honda Accord was recovered.

Theft from Auto

Tags were stolen on April 29 near 6062 Greenbelt Road; on April 30 near 9174 Springhill Lane; on May 1 near 7810 Walk-

er Drive (Ind. PC26040); and on May 2 near 53 Crescent Road (Md. 5FXX13).

On April 27 near 9111 Edmonston Road, items were stolen including a catalytic converter.

On April 29 near 120 Westway, tools were stolen from a company-owned Ford Transit vehicle.

On May 1 near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a disability placard was stolen from a 2026 Acura, possibly unlocked.

On May 2 near 6127 Breezewood Drive, windows were smashed on a Honda Accord and a wallet was stolen.

Vandalism to Auto

On April 29 near 3 Ridge Road, a 2024 GMC was vandalized.

On May 2 near 147 Westway, a 2013 Chevrolet Silverado had a window damaged.

On May 2 near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a vehicle window was shattered by what appeared to be a rock while the car was being driven.

Robbery Skit with Fake Gun Results in Lockdown at ERHS

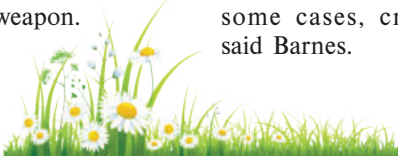
by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On the morning of Wednesday, April 29, two Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) students performed a staged "robbery skit" in front of the school. As a result of what appeared to be a robbery and the display of what appeared to be a weapon, Greenbelt Police Department responded to the area and the school was placed on lockdown from approximately 9 a.m. to 9:35 a.m.

ERHS Principal Portia Barnes emailed a letter to the community on Wednesday morning, informing families that two students had participated in the "robbery skit." The skit is a trending TikTok challenge in which participants use fake weapons and pretend to commit robberies at schools, explained Barnes. In this case, students performed the roles of "victim" and "assailant" and one displayed a toy weapon.

"We worked closely with local law enforcement and the Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) security services team to investigate the incident, and all students involved will face disciplinary action as outlined in the PGCPS Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook," wrote Barnes, who said the behavior could be dangerous to participants, noting that "at a distance toy weapons may look real to responding officers."

Barnes asked the community to talk with children about the importance of not taking part in "potentially dangerous online challenges" and "the serious consequences of participating and bringing weapons - including look-alike weapons - to school." Those consequences can include suspension, expulsion and in some cases, criminal charges, said Barnes.



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Greenbelt Man Sentenced For Multiple Armed Robberies

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On Thursday, April 30, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Maryland (USA-MD) announced that a Greenbelt man will serve 13 years in federal prison for his role in an armed robbery spree. Court records obtained by the Greenbelt News Review show that Derek Lynn Davis, 36, was previously arrested by Greenbelt Police Department (GPD) multiple times.

U.S. District Judge Deborah L. Boardman sentenced Davis to 13 years in prison, followed by five years of supervised release, for interfering with interstate commerce by robbery and using, carrying, brandishing and discharging a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence. "Davis and his co-conspirators stole more than \$3,000 from multiple businesses they robbed, and terrorized nine victims," said the USA-MD.

According to the announcement, beginning in July 2023 and continuing through August 2023, Davis, with the assistance of different co-conspirators, robbed six businesses at gunpoint, sometimes robbing multiple businesses within a day. They typically entered these businesses armed with firearms and demanded victims open the cash register. "In fear of their lives, victims complied with Davis' demands, giving him access to the cash registers," said the USA-MD. During one robbery, one of the co-conspirators fired a shot as the employee was opening the cash register and the bullet struck the ground close to where two people were standing.

In 2023 GPD detectives were

able to solve two robberies that took place on May 21 and July 24 that year at the 7-Eleven located in the 7900 block of Good Luck Road. They identified then 34-year-old Davis, who was living in Temple Hills at the time, by working with detectives from the Prince George's County Police Department (PGCPD). He was arrested along with two other men in August after committing two additional commercial armed robberies, said GPD. Davis was charged with firearm use in felony/violent crimes, first and second-degree assault, armed robbery, theft, firearm on person, firearm possession by felon and reckless endangerment. PGCPD was able to connect him to an additional 15 to 20 robberies.

Public records of Davis' arrests by the GPD date back to assault and armed robbery that occurred in November 2005, when he was a 16-year-old living in Greenbelt. In 2006 he was again arrested by Greenbelt police, while his address was in Hyattsville, and he was sentenced to three years, 18 months of jail time, with 555 days suspended. Then, in 2008, Davis was arrested by GPD on charges of assault, armed robbery, use of a handgun in a violent crime and a burglary that he was allegedly involved in on his 19th birthday. That year he was sentenced to 10 years in jail for robbery. However, his commitment was amended the next year, in 2009, and in 2011 a bench warrant was issued for violation of probation. In 2014 another warrant was served.

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INDOOR COMMUNITY YARD SALE – May 9, 2026 - 9am - 1pm @ GVFD - 125 Crescent Road. Table reservation: One \$15, Two \$25. For further information, please call: Kathy 301-351-7496 (cell). Food and beverage available for purchase.



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RATES

CLASSIFIED: \$4.00 minimum for 15 words. \$1 for each 1-5 additional words. Submit ad with payment to the News Review office by 6 p.m. Tuesday, or to the News Review drop box in the Co-op grocery store before 5 p.m. Tuesday, or mail to 15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

BOXED: \$11.50/column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$17.25). Deadline 2 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 6 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads. Certs and Notarizations each \$10.

NEEDED: Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.

DROP ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building).

ZELLE: The News Review is now accepting electronic payments through Zelle. Find out more at zellepay.com. Customers should direct their payments to business@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

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Sports

Little League Season Now in Full Swing

by Ben Friedman

The crack of the bat can be heard all over Greenbelt, with Little League games being played at Braden Field, McDonald Field, and Schrom Field six days a week and twice on Saturdays!

Local youth from all over Greenbelt, North County, and beyond are learning the fundamentals of baseball and playing their hearts out on the diamond. Starting with Tee Ball for ages 3-6, divisions continue through Coach Pitch (4-7), Machine Pitch (6-8), to Kid Pitch Minors (8-11), Majors (9-12), Intermediate (10-13), Juniors (12-15), and Seniors (14-16).

The spring season runs from April to mid-June, with the Little League District Tournaments starting in late June, and State Tournaments in July. Greenbelt Little League also runs a fall season in coordination with other leagues in the area with similar age divisions, with registration typically opening in late August.



Clark Butler actively awaits the ball.



Teddy Barnes slides into base on May 1.

- Photos by Richard Williamson



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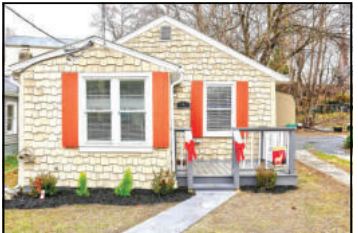
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Division: Minors	Home	Away	Winner/Score
Sat., April 18	Tides	Orioles	Tides 13-11
Sat., April 18	Yankees	Space Cowboys	Space Cowboys 13-11
Tue., April 21	Space Cowboys	Orioles	Orioles 10-6
Thu., April 23	Yankees	Tides	Yankees 19-7
Sat., April 25	Space Cowboys	Tides	Space Cowboys 17-13
Sat., April 25	Orioles	Yankees	Yankees 19-8
Tue., April 28	Yankees	Space Cowboys	Yankees 17-11
Thu., April 30	Tides	Orioles	Tides 17-13
Sat., May 2	Arbutus 2	Yankees	Yankees 15-2
Sat., May 2	Space Cowboys	Laurel Rough Riders	Space Cowboys 5-4
Sat., May 2	Laurel Grand Slam	Tides	Tides 14-3
Sat., May 2	Orioles	Arbutus 1	Orioles 15-2
Division: Majors	Home	Away	Winner/Score
Sat., April 18	Greenbelt Bulls	Greenbelt Rangers	Bulls 7-6
Mon., April 20	Laurel Orioles	Greenbelt Bulls	Bulls 14-2
Wed., April 22	Laurel Yankees	Greenbelt Rangers	Rangers 15-9
Sat., April 25	Arbutus Tides	Greenbelt Bulls	Arbutus 11-0
Sat., April 25	Greenbelt Rangers	Laurel Orioles	Rangers 21-8
Mon., April 27	Greenbelt Bulls	Laurel Eagles	Bulls 15-1
Wed., April 29	Laurel Eagles	Greenbelt Rangers	Rained Out
Sat., May 2	Laurel Yankees	Greenbelt Bulls	Laurel 25-9
Sat., May 2	Greenbelt Rangers	Annapolis Blue Claws	Annapolis 19-1
Mon., May 4	Greenbelt Rangers	Greenbelt Bulls	Rangers 9-6

Teams are Greenbelt Little League unless otherwise indicated.

Recent Games, Intermediate & Juniors: April 14-May 4, 2026 (Kid-pitch only)

Division: Intermediate	Home	Away	Winner/Score
Sat., April 18	Goldeyes	Yard Goats	Yard Goats 10-6
Sat., April 18	Laurel Phillies	Seeds	Laurel 8-7
Mon., April 20	Laurel Phillies	Goldeyes	Goldeyes 14-4
Wed., April 22	Seeds	Yard Goats	Yard Goats 17-11
Sat., April 25	Goldeyes	Seeds	Goldeyes 20-8
Mon., April 27	Yard Goats	Goldeyes	Goldeyes 10-8
Mon., April 27	Laurel Phillies	Seeds	Seeds 22-13
Sat., May 2	Seeds	Yard Goats	Yard Goats 10-8
Sat., May 2	Goldeyes	Phillies	Goldeyes 12-9
Mon., May 4	Goldeyes	Yard Goats	Yard Goats 11-4
Division: Juniors	Home	Away	Winner/Score
Thu., April 16	Laurel Ross	Greenbelt Cubs	Laurel 6-2
Mon., April 27	Greenbelt Cubs	Laurel Urena	Cubs 13-12
Sat., May 2	Laurel Ross	Greenbelt Cubs	Laurel 7-5
Mon., May 4	Greenbelt Cubs	Arbutus Camacho	Cubs 16-4

Teams are Greenbelt Little League unless otherwise indicated.

Call for Sports News

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City Holds Second Annual Touch-a-Truck Event

On Saturday, May 2, the city held its second annual Touch-a-Truck event in the parking lot behind Beltway Plaza. Families across the community came out to explore real trucks, enjoy games and prizes, food and music. Children had the chance to climb inside vehicles, including the Greenbelt Police Department's new electric patrol car, check out emergency gear and explore other vehicles that help keep the city safe and running.



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT

The city's various trucks delight all.



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT

A Maryland Police helicopter was available to explore.



PHOTO BY BARRETT BEDFORD-DILLOW

Little children enjoy big vehicles.



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT

Children check out the sheriff's motorbikes.



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT

Parents and children alike enjoy the carts.

AWARDS continued from page 11

is called the spoken drum. Djembe drums represent a village and mean "let's gather for peace." Ali Coleman explained that the drum was banned by slave owners because it called on enslaved people to escape or revolt. She said enslaved people embraced the banjo in place of the djembe drum.

The program opened with a welcome by Mayor Emmett Jordan. Councilmembers Frankie Fritz, Kristen Weaver, Jenni Pompei and Silke Pope attended. Greenbelt Access Television was present to record the ceremony.



PHOTO BY LOIS ROSADO

Seen, Not Heard by Kennedy Chapple

Poetry in the Garden



PHOTO COURTESY EFFIE LEVNER

On April 27 Greenbelt City Council invited Poetry In The Garden to receive a poetry proclamation and celebrate National Poetry Month. Mayor Emmett Jordan read the proclamation. Club founder Effie Levner gave a short description of the club and Sainey Ceesay read her poem to the public. Club members were encouraged by seeing the city recognize the importance of poetry. Pictured from left are Nirvan Sengupta, Lucy Sengupta (Silver), Mayor Emmett Jordan, Councilmember Kristen Weaver, Effie Levner and Sainey Ceesay.

www.greenbeltnewsreview.com

Greenbelters on Viking Cruise



PHOTO COURTESY CAROL SLATIN

Greenbelters Carol Slatin (holding paper), Ellen Weiss, Abby Crowley, Annie Haber, Eva Garin, Niki Kohn and friends read the News Review on a Viking cruise in the Netherlands.